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FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

THE ILLINOIS LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

From Alton Daily Courier of June 4, 1858.

The regular monthly (for May) meeting of this society was held at the hall of the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company, in Middletown, on Wednesday afternoon, 26th ult. We are indebted to Mr. John Atwood, the obliging secretary of the society, for a sketch of the proceeding of the meeting.

Dr. N. N. Wood, corresponding secretary, read letters from Messrs. Benj. Richardson, editor of the Historical Magazine, and Charles B. Norton. The latter was chosen actuary on certain terms proposed in his letter.

On motion of W. C. Flagg, the secretary was instructed to subscribe for ten copies of the Historical Magazine, published in New York, for the use of this society.

Sundry bills were read and referred to the Finance Committee. The names of a number of persons were proposed for membership—these lie over under the rules.

Mr. M. G. Atwood read a very interesting article entitled "Governors of Illinois," which was ordered to be filed.

In the course of a discussion which ensued it was stated that Madison county once embraced the site where Chicago now stands; and that when Randolph was first erected into a county, it included the whole State of Illinois and was then a county of Virginia.¹

¹ The member was in error when he stated that Randolph county when erected included the whole of the present State of Illinois. St. Clair was erected April 27, 1790, and Knox, June 30 of same year, as counties of the Northwest Territory. Randolph was set off Oct. 5, 1795, as a separate county of the Northwest Territory, from the southwest corner of St. Clair and bordered on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Its boundaries were changed several times thereafter, but never included more than a fraction of what is now Southern Illinois.

Mr. Flagg informed the society that at the recent sale of the effects of the late Dr. Peck he purchased a copy of the Laws of Louisiana, which was printed in St. Louis, Mo., in the year 1808.

On motion it was voted that Lewis Kellenberger, Esq., be requested to communicate to the society all the facts in his possession relative to the earthquake at New Madrid, Mo., in the year 1811.

On motion a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. M. G. Atwood, N. N. Wood, J. R. Woods, W. C. Flagg and Lewis Kellenberger, was appointed to take measures for procuring a meeting of the old settlers of the country (county?) and report.

Mr. W. C. Flagg was authorized and requested to secure and preserve all the books, papers and other documents that now belong or may be donated to the society by the State government or the officials at Springfield.

The society adjourned to meet on the fifth Wednesday of June, at two o'clock in the afternoon.